

The Rock

*Serving the almost
6,000 employees on Arsenal Island*



September 2004

Volume 3, Number 7



CFC Kickoff

The Combined Federal Campaign kicked off its fundraising drive with the annual Workplace Olympics. The event challenges teams of federal employees with creative games like "Flamingo Ringo" and "Laundry Day Dash." The CFC is the only way federal employees can donate to charities through their workplace.

Photos by Tony Lopez



CFC: A great way to show thanks for recent fortunes

This is a great time for the Arsenal! We have been having spectacular weather, the Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center is currently hiring some new employees, and the Army recently notified us that the JMTC will be building much needed M119A2 Howitzers starting next spring.

I have also noticed many new and fresh faces all over the Arsenal. Many other organizations are hiring and several have new groups of interns.

This is all good news for the Army and for our installation.

So we have a lot to be thankful for. I can think of no better way to express our thanks and to share our good fortunes than to give to our favorite charities through the Combined Federal Campaign. Our local Illowa Bi-State CFC started last week and will run through October 29.

I think the following key messages sum up the most important information on the CFC:

The charities you support through the CFC focus on people, animals and the environment – things that impact all of our communities and us. This year there are almost 2,000 charities to choose from.

You decide where your money goes by your designations.

Last year, more than 1,500 instances of service were provided to postal and federal employees by CFC-funded charities in our local communities. On the average, one in three families are touched by CFC-funded programs from Boy and Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs, YM/YWCAs, Humane Societies, river cleanups, all types of disease and health-related charities and organizations that



**Col. Bruce Elliott
Commander**

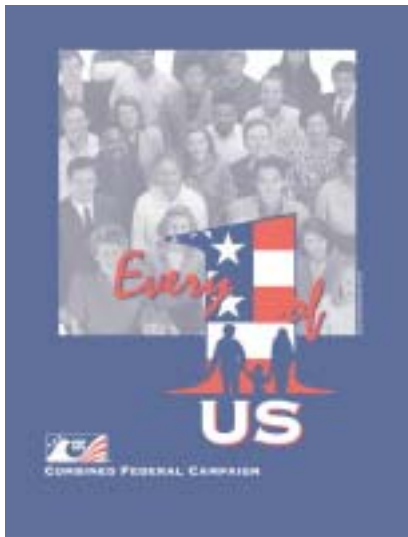
support various athletic activities, to name a few.

In the future, you and/or your immediate family may be in need of the services that you support today. Therefore, you are insuring that those services will be there when you and your family need them.

When you give through the CFC, your donation is combined with your co-workers and forwarded quarterly to those charities you've chosen. Through CFC funding those organizations can then budget and plan their programs.

Your local Illowa Bi-State CFC

Continued on Page 3



The Rock

THE ROCK is an unofficial publication for members of the Rock Island Arsenal community. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Arsenal or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of THE ROCK is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office, Rock Island Arsenal. Contributions to the ROCK are welcome: Postal address: Commander, Rock Island Arsenal, RIA-PA, Rock Island, IL 61299-5000. E-mail address: RIA-PA@ria.army.mil. Phone: 309-782-1121. The circulation of the ROCK is approximately 3,000. The ROCK is available on-line at the Rock Island website at www.ria.army.mil.

Rock Island Arsenal

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New workload, jobs coming to factory

The Department of the Army has announced that the Rock Island Arsenal will manufacture approximately 275 new M119A2 Howitzers beginning in June of 2005. The Arsenal anticipates that this new workload will add up to 100 new jobs sometime next spring.

"This is great news for the Arsenal," said Alan Wilson, Deputy to the Commander. "We are very excited about getting the howitzer manufacturing work here."

The current howitzer fleet has seen significant work in Iraq and Afghanistan and was built primarily during the early 1990s. The Arsenal last built the M119 Howitzer in 1996.

The new work is valued at between \$275 and \$300 million and is scheduled to be completed sometime during Fiscal Year 2009.



M119A2 in action in Southwest Asia.

CFC *continued from Page 2*

sends almost all of the money you give to the charities of your choice - only a small amount goes towards overhead and fundraising. Since 1997 we have decreased administrative costs from over 10 percent to 7.4 percent in 2003. We are working to lower the administrative costs this year.

Federal and postal employees at the local and national levels check out all of the charities so that only those who meet high standards are part of the CFC. Locally your peers review all of the applications received from local charities.

If you know of a local, deserving charity that is not part of the CFC, let us know. If they meet the criteria, we will work with them to get them in the brochure for next year.

I want to personally thank all of the volunteers who work so hard on the campaign - the keypeople who spread the word among their fellow employees, the chairpersons who run the campaign in their respective organizations, and the Loaned Executives who educate and inspire all of us. They all help make a positive difference in our community and our world. Won't you join us and be a part of "every one of us this year?"

(Editor's note: For more information go to the CFC website at illowacfc.org.)

Retiring? Be sure to educate yourself on possible tax implications

If you are a Federal Employee nearing retirement, there is a wrinkle in the tax code you should be aware of. At present, the dollar amount you pay for health insurance premiums is excluded from both income and social security payroll taxes. This benefit is commonly referred to as "premium conversion" and is allowed by Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Typically, this benefit reduces the tax liability of federal employees by \$400 - \$500 per year, depending on income and tax bracket. Expressed another way, federal employees are allowed to pay health insurance premiums with "before tax" dollars. This policy became effective Oct. 1, 2000.

The Code's Section 125 is unclear about how premium conversion should be applied to federal retirees. Tax policy has ruled that it NOT apply to federal retirees. Their health insurance premiums are part of taxable income.

This may come as a shock to new retirees already faced with adjusting their lifestyles to a lesser retirement income.

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees has information regarding tax policy. Their Website is www.narfe.org. Davenport Chapter 279, a local NARFE organization, is located in the Service Center on Arsenal Island, Bldg. 102, 2nd floor (next to SATO). Hours are 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays only. For more information call (309) 782-0187 or (309) 782-1799.

Please submit story ideas for the Rock by calling the RIA Public Affairs office at 782-1121.



photo by Allen Marshall

Remembering 911

The Rock Island National Cemetery held a ceremony Sept. 10 in recognition of the third anniversary of the tragedies of Sept. 11, 2001. Robert Poe, the Director of the Rock Island National Cemetery, read a statement from the Department of Veterans Affairs and a 21-gun salute was performed by a local veteran's organization. Nearly 3,000 Americans died during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Army develops web-based suggestion program

The Department of the Army has developed a web based, on-line database for submitting ideas into the Army Suggestion Program (ASP).

The internet address to the new database is: <https://armysuggestions.army.mil> or it is available through the RIA homepage, under "Information", "Suggestion Program".

When using the link you will be prompted for your Army Knowledge On-line (AKO) login ID and password to access the site. This database is available for immediate use by any U.S. Army employee with a valid AKO account. If you do not have an account or you need to request a new login or password, go to the AKO website: https://www.us.army.mil/portal/portal_home.jhtml, under "AKO Help".

What is a Suggestion? An employee or a group idea that is processed through the ASP that describes ways to do a job better, faster and/or cheaper by:

- * Improving the way we do things, materials we use, productivity;
- * Improving our end products;
- * Improving morale or working conditions.

Issues like the following are not eligible for consideration by the ASP:

- * Housekeeping practices;
- * Personal comfort;
- * Minor Safety;
- * Complaints about Government policy and practice.

When submitting a suggestion, make sure to describe the current problem completely and logically, describe your proposal fully and logically, and describe the benefits in as much detail as possible.

Visit the Web site listed above for more information.

GSIE, JMTC team up to help Air Force

by Chris Barnhart
GSIE New Endeavors Group

Brent Starkey, Ground Systems Industrial Enterprise (GSIE) and William Gross, Joint Manufacturing Technology Center (JMTC), paid a recent service call to the Air Force. This is an example of how the GSIE stands behind its products.

"Although we don't offer a warranty, per se, we'll go to great lengths to ensure our customers are satisfied," said Starkey.

The Air Force Battle Lab had procured a four door Armored Survivability Kit from the Army to evaluate the capabilities of the ballistic armor. On Aug. 26, the GSIE received a call that the ballistic glass inserts on the HMMWV doors had fogged up and were turning opaque.

On Aug. 31, the GSIE and JMTC service team arrived at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, armed with new glass to replace all four windows. The team made the repairs, and the initial assessment is that the cause of the window failure was the absorption of water vapor between the glass laminations due to improper bonding of the



photo by Chris Barnhart

Brent Starkey (left), GSIE, and William Gross, JMTC Rock Island, install a ballistic glass window in an armored door at the JMTC. Starkey and Gross recently made a service call to McGuire Air Force Base to replace defective windows

laminations.

The defective glass will be sent to the Army Research Laboratory in Aberdeen, Md., for further testing and evaluation. Starkey and Gross left behind satisfied customers and received medallions from the Air Force Battle Lab for their efforts.



Resumix

The Civilian Personnel Office conducted training seminars in the use of the government resume system. The training was conducted at the River Center in Davenport and was tailored to the general public. Rock Island Arsenal will be hiring for as many as 100 new jobs over the next few months. (photo by Allen Marshall)

First of its kind

School Age Center opens its doors, sets standard for future Army facilities

**By Allen Marshall
Editor**

It's the first of its kind in the Army and it sets the standard for those that follow. And, it is right here at Rock Island Arsenal. It is the newly opened School Age Center.

The facility opened its doors Aug. 26 and an official ribbon cutting ceremony was held Sept. 16.

The state-of-the-art structure located on Rodman Ave. just across the street from some of the residents' quarters, is designed to provide programs for children 6- to 18-years-old and is the culmination of more than 15 months of construction. It is the first major construction project at Rock Island Arsenal in nearly 12 years.

Ground breaking for the new facility began in April of 2003 when U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (Ill.) helped kick off construction.

Before the grand opening, school-age children in the Arsenal's program had been accommodated in the basement of Building 60. That facility did not have the capacity of the new structure, according to Nancy Reeves, Chief of Children and Youth Services.

"The old facility did not have a playground, a kitchen or a multi-purpose room," Reeves said. "Our new building provides so much more for the children. You really have to see it to believe it."



The new School Age Center.

The differences between old and new are apparent as soon as a patron enters the new facility. Parents picking up their children or guests visiting will have to be "buzzed" into the building. Reeves said safety and security was of paramount importance when the structure was designed.

Inside the building is a modern design with lots of windows and ambient light. At the center of the facility is a large open room which functions as an area for meals and snacks.

This eating and snack area is right next to the commercial grade kitchen. This atrium area will serve not only as a place to enjoy a snack or a meal but also as an area for kitchen and food demonstrations to help develop children's life skills.

"We, as employees of Arsenal Island, should take great pride in having a facility like this one," said Alan Wilson, Deputy to the Com-

mander of Rock Island Arsenal. "It's exciting to have a facility at our installation that sets the standard for the rest of the Army. We are an organization that takes great pride in taking care of our employees which also means taking care of their families."

The School Age Center

provides programs for before and after school, school inservice days, inclement weather and summer. Children using the facility will have access to a wide variety of activities to include arts and crafts and recreational activities. There are several different activity rooms as well as a Teen Center and a large, multi-purpose room that can be used for basketball, volleyball and other sports activities. And, the new facility has one other major upgrade – a computer lab.

The lab contains 14 computers, all with internet access. There are also scanners and digital cameras available. The computer lab serves as an area for the children to do homework or leisure activities. Rock Island Arsenal is the first installation in the Installation Management Agency Northwest Region to receive the new

Continued on Page 8



Upgrade

The new School Age Center offers several different activity rooms for arts and crafts and recreation. It also has a commercial-grade kitchen and snack area and a very well equipped computer lab. (Photos by Allen Marshall)



Soldier thankful for armor kit

(Editor's note: the following is a letter from a soldier in Iraq)

To whom it may concern,

I would like to personally thank the entire team that contributed to the Add-on-armor kits that are being installed on our Humvees to increase our soldier's survivability on the battlefield here in Iraq.

The protection of the armored doors and the ballistic glass windows that all the companies worked so hard to design, develop and install is a great achievement that speaks volumes to your industry and the hard work you do contributing to our ongoing fight against terrorism. I would like to share with you a story: I arrived in Iraq in March 2004 with the First Calvary Division and up until now, my Humvee has not had the opportunity to receive any armored protection. To conduct my missions, I've been riding around the streets of Baghdad without any form of armored protection, just a plain hummer without any doors and a normal glass windshield. On August 11, prior to one of my missions, a Humvee equipped with armored doors and ballistic glass windshield and windows became available for my use.

I jumped on the chance to afford myself an increased level of protection. I didn't know how fortunate that decision would be. Halfway to my destination, my convoy was ambushed with heavy small arms AK-47 fire, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and rocket propelled grenades (RPGs). My vehicle was directly engaged with heavy small arms fire, receiving multiple hits on the driver's windshield. The vehicle also took a few direct hits on the doors and windows protecting us from the side.

Most amazing, the heavy ballistic windshield took a direct hit from an RPG, at an angle, and seemed to bounce off and explode immediately to my right. My driver was able to maintain control of the vehicle; we drove out of the ambush alive! We continued, albeit a bit shaken, but felt completely secure in our vehicle and completed our mission.

I can tell you that seeing the RPG flying at me, striking the windshield directly in front of my face and exploding to my right, gives me great assurance in the protection your products provide to the average Soldier. I realize I was very lucky, but your team increased my odds significantly. I am certain that without the kit being installed, I would not have had the opportunity to write this letter and thank you or make it home to my wife and daughter safely without even a scratch from this event.

Our unit is now actively attempting to procure more of these kits for every vehicle we have, especially those that must travel outside the camp, so every soldier will have the same level of protection.

The call from the field for some form of armor for our everyday work vehicles was identified and your companies, in my opinion, answered that call. Keep up the good work and continue contributing to the fight! First team!

Sincerely,

Michael D. Brown
First Sergeant, USA

School Age Center *continued from Page 6*

computer lab and equipment that was furnished by the Department of the Army.

From the outside, the new facility exudes a modern feel. The playgrounds are all designed with safety in mind and are equipped with composite playground structures and an open grassy area for sports and games.

Jerry Sechser, Director of Public Works, described the completed construction as an "outstanding accomplishment."

"The engineers and architects put a lot of effort into this facility," Sechser said. "The building was designed to include maintenance considerations, security and operations of the building. All the effort was well worth it because it really is a first-class facility."

Setting the standard for the rest the Army to follow, Rock Island Arsenal's School Age Center is the design benchmark for facilities like the one being built at Ft. Riley, Kansas.



In the Parade

Courtesy photo

An Arsenal-built Forward Repair System was on display at the East Moline Labor Day Parade. Members of the local American Federation of Government Employees showcased several pieces of Arsenal-built equipment at the annual parade.

Drink up! Island's water supply is safe

(Editor's note: This article was compiled using information provided by the Rock Island Arsenal Public Works Directorate)

Bottled water has become a daily part of many people's lives, to include the lives of many at Rock Island Arsenal. The days of heading to the tap for a drink may be gone.

But, the employees who are charged with the quality, purity and consumability of the Island's water supply, work hard so that if people chose to, it is perfectly safe to drink from the Island's supply.

Many may not know that the

Island's water supply is tested regularly and is held to high standards.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regulates drinking water. Rock Island Arsenal's water supply has met all regulated requirements for Class I drinking water. In other words, it is completely safe to drink.

The Rock Island Arsenal Public Works Directorate takes great strides to ensure the quality of the water on the Island. A consumer confidence report, which indicates things like chemical levels in water, is published annually by the Arsenal and is available on the RIA home page.

The IEPA has strict parameters for public water and the RIA water supply is not exempt from the parameters. The Island has several quality control measures in place to ensure compliance, whether that be sampling on a continuous, hourly, daily, monthly or annual basis.

Bottled water is a safe, convenient supply of water but it is not a necessity on the Island. The plant operators at Rock Island Arsenal's water plant take great pride in providing the best water possible. For more information about the Island's water supply, call 782-2445 or 4074.

EAP partners with Red Ribbon Coalition

Rachel Purvis
MWR Marketing Manager

RIA's EAP is partnering with the Quad City Red Ribbon Coalition to support the Red Ribbon Campaign. EAP will be hosting Red Ribbon Week October 23 through 31. The mission of the campaign is to promote drug awareness in the community and encourage a drug free lifestyle.

First celebrated in 1985, Red Ribbon was founded in response to the tragic death of Drug Enforcement Administration Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who was abducted and killed by drug dealers while on assignment in Mexico. Today, red ribbons are worn as a symbol of the continuing commitment to fight drug abuse.

EAP will be illustrating its continued effort in the fight against drugs through various interactive and



educational activities during the campaign, including the dispersal of red ribbons on Monday, October 25 and "Wear Red Day" on Tuesday, October 26.

Other scheduled events will be posted prior to Red Ribbon Week.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the festivities and show their support in keeping their community and America drug free.

Date rape increasingly common problem

(Editor's note: article provided by the Island's Family Advocacy Program)

Date rape is when someone forces themselves on you without your permission while on a date with them or just talking to them. The bottom line is that yes means yes and no means no.

If a person says no and is still coerced or forced into having sex, then a rape has occurred. The important thing to remember is that if there are feelings of violation, if a person's lifestyle and self-esteem are negatively affected by the incident, or survivors believe they have been raped, then it is rape.

Acquaintance rape, which is also referred to as "date rape" and "hidden rape," has been increasingly recognized as a real and relatively common problem within society.

The term acquaintance rape can be defined as being subjected to unwanted sex through the use of force or threat of force. Date rape is the act of forcing sex on a date. The key word in the definition is force, since it's the legal line that separates rape

from romance. Acquaintance rape is a broader category, and can involve a sexual assault by a friend, co-worker, or the boy next door. In most cases, victim and attacker have known each other for a year or longer.

Unlike rapes involving strangers, date and acquaintance rapists typically use psychological pressure or physical strength to press for sex, rather than weapons or threats of violence.

The problem is most visible on college campuses, where as many as one in five women may experience some type of physical or psychological sexual coercion. But date rape isn't limited to campuses, even though it's most commonly reported by young women between the ages of 15 and 24. Still, guessing its actual incidence is difficult since so many date rapes go unreported.

Date and acquaintance rape is not only a woman's issue. Men must be actively aware of this issue, as they can help minimize rape by educating themselves and others. Lovers, neighbors, friends, co-workers, dates, and classmates — these can all be

perpetrators of date and acquaintance rape. Men are also victimized by sexual assault. And the estimates that are out there are undoubtedly underestimated.

Recent studies indicate about six percent of reported rapes involve male victims. Nevertheless, sexual violence is committed overwhelmingly by men, whether it is sexual violence against women or sexual violence against other men.

Acquaintance rape is not typically committed by psychopaths who are deviant from mainstream society. It is often expressed that direct and indirect messages given to boys and young men by our culture about what it means to be male (dominant, aggressive, uncompromising) contribute to creating a mindset which is accepting of sexually aggressive behavior. Once the actual rape has occurred and has been identified as rape by the survivor, she is faced with the decision of whether to disclose to anyone what has happened.

For more information on date rape and other topics, call the Family Advocacy Program at 782-3049.



Hispanic Heritage found in everyday words

Hispanic Heritage Month began Sept. 15, the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico achieved independence on Sept. 16, and Chile on Sept. 18.

The Hispanic people were among the earliest settlers in the New World. Many Hispanic Americans trace their roots back 400 years to the cultures of the indigenous peoples of the Americas, including the Arawaks (Puerto Rico), the Aztecs (Mexico), the Incas (South America), the Mayas (Central America), and the Tainos (Cuba).

The term Hispanic, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race. On the 2000 Census form, people of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or “other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.” More than 35 million people identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino on the 2000 Census.

Renegade, mosquito, mustang, booby—English uses many words with Spanish origins. In fact, some scholars say Spanish has contributed 10,000 words to English.

A Linguistic Fiesta

Many adopted Spanish words are food terms, such as *tamale, taco, salsa, cilantro, guacamole, enchilada, oregano*, and *burrito*. They are usually used in their original Spanish forms. Others, such as *tuna*, which comes from the Spanish *atún*, are variations of the original.

Other food words are of American Indian origin, but came into English via Spanish. *Tomato*, for instance, is derived from the Spanish *tomate*, a corruption of the Nahuatl word *tomatl*. *Chocolate* comes from the Nahuatl word *xocolatl*. *Potato* comes from *papa*, meaning white potato in the Inca language, Quechua; and *batata*, sweet potato in the Taino Indian language of the Caribbean. *Banana*, on the other hand, entered Spanish from the West African languages of Wolof, Mandingo, and Fulani.

Animal Names

A number of animal words went directly from Indian languages into Spanish and then English. *Puma* originated in Quechua, while *jaguar* comes from *yaguar*, a word of the Guaraní who live in what is now Paraguay, and *iguana* is a modification of *iwana*, used by the Arawak

and Carib of the West Indies.

Riding Through the Desert

When Americans began exploring the Southwest in the early 19th century they encountered an established Mexican culture, which has provided English with many everyday words. Some involve horseback riding, including *rodeo, lasso*, and *lariat*, since the horse was a key part of frontier life for both Mexicans and Americans. *Ranch*, a common English word today, hails from the Mexican Spanish *rancho*, meaning ranch, settlement, or meat ration.

Sailing the Spanish Main

Hurricane, tobacco, and hammock came to English from the Caribbean. In the 17th and 18th centuries American and English traders plied the ports of the West Indies and South America. Weather often required extended stays in these ports, acquainting the English speakers with Spanish culture. In addition, buccaneers in search of treasure sailed “the Spanish Main,” the South American mainland from the Orinoco River in present-day Venezuela to Panama. It is likely they also acquired many Spanish words now used in English. (Article compiled by Chuck Cervantes of the Rock Island Arsenal EEO)

Spiritual Fitness Devotional Service- Every Wednesday from 11:35 a.m. until 11:55 a.m. During your lunchtime walk why not walk to the chapel (Bldg. 56) for a brief devotional and song, and then finish your walk. Call the AFSC Chaplain's Office at 782-0910.

Clinic Information - The clinic, to include the pharmacy, will close early (at 1:30 p.m) on Sept. 28, 2004. The clinic is closing early in order to conduct our monthly training. The clinic will close at 1:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of every month unless otherwise noted.

Arsenal Attic Thrift Shop- will be unable to accept consignments at this time due to ongoing repairs in the shop. Please watch for updates through the announcements for consignment drop-off and opening date.

Thrift Shop Manager and Bookkeeper Positions. If you are interested in this part-time position please call 563-332-7184.

DEAF CULTURE AND SIGNING CLASS - Ms. Roberta Garrison from the Center for Independent Living will teach a Deaf Culture and Signing Class Oct 6 through Nov 10. The class is scheduled to meet weekly (six weeks) each Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. You must be available to attend all six classes. Participants will be informed of location. There will be no charge to attendees. Supervisory approval is required. Call 782-1241 or e-mail patty.vyncke@us.army.mil.

RIA MWR 2004 Fall Golf Tournament -will be held at the RIA Golf Club on October 8 at 9:30 am. The cost is \$55.00 per person and includes golf, cart, and meal at RIA Golf Club. Sign up began Sept. 13 at the Fitness Center. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis. There is a 36 team limit! Categories: Men's, Women's, and Mixed. Entry forms are available at Fitness Center and are also on the MWR website, www.riamwr.com. Call 782-6787 for further details.

Need Help? If you or someone you know is looking for information or referrals on local agencies and programs you can contact the Army Community Service Information & Referral Office at 782-3896. The I&R office has information on hundreds of community programs through the United Way of the Quad Cities Info LINK. This service is open to all RIA personnel.

Relocating overseas? Army Community Service (ACS) Relocation Assistance offers overseas relocation briefings for those ready to PCS to an overseas location, which can be set up on an individual or group basis. SITES booklets are also available for installations around the world. For more information please contact us at 782-3896.

New to the Quad Cities? Welcome packets for military and civilian families that have recently arrived at RIA are available through the Relocation Assistance Program at Army Community Service. For more information please call 782-3896.

RESUMIX and KSA Workshops for September through October at ACS. Army Community Service's (ACS) Employment Readiness (ER) Program will conduct a series of group coaching sessions on RESUMIX and KSA Writing in Bldg 110, 1st floor, in the SE corner from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on selected Tuesdays and Wednesdays, August through October. Seating is limited to 15 participants per session. Duty time is not automatically authorized and employees and military personnel are to account for their time with their supervisors. Persons having questions or needing assistance may contact ACS at (309) 782-0829 or e-mail rewb@ria.army.mil

The Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) Open Season ends Sept. 30.